
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Well, I got my Mom and my Aunt back safely to their respective homes after our travels. We all had a wonderful trip and it was a very special family time. My Aunt fell out of bed one night, but she didn't do any damage. Dodged a bullet on that one.

Upon my return to Shreveport with my precious cargo, I was able to work out of the Shreveport Office on Tuesday. I was able to catch the tail end of what appeared to be a productive staff meeting. I proceeded to wear out my welcome as I used several offices to conduct business, and used the video conferencing equipment in the afternoon. The staff in that office is really crowded. If you have been in the Shreveport office lately you will see that the office space is less than ideal. I came back with a renewed commitment to work toward alternative office space for Shreveport. I know there are other offices in the same shape, and I will continue to keep this on the burner. But with the fiscal situation we have before us, it will have to be on low heat, but not off the burner!

Onward to Monroe on Wednesday, DAS Carolyn Lewis and I met with state Senator Francis Thompson in his hometown of Delhi. Later we went to Swanson where I conducted the Facility Directors' Meeting (FDM). Thursday, we had a meeting with the local District Attorney, Jerry Jones and his staff, and staff from DHH and the Office of Addictive Disorders. We were meeting on the possibility of expanding community-based assessment and treatment for substance-abusing youth in the Monroe region. We have high hopes that we will receive a positive response from SAMHSA – the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration – regarding our grant request. OJJ appreciates the outstanding leadership of DA Jerry Jones in moving juvenile justice reform forward in the Monroe region. I also want to thank the DHH team for their partnership in these initiatives.

After a short visit to the Monroe P&P Office I got on the road back to Baton Rouge, and was able to meet with House Appropriations Committee Chairman James Fannin. I had a good meeting with Rep. Fannin and State Police Colonel Mike Edmondson and Undersecretary Alan Boxberger.

Today we interviewed candidates for the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Facilities. We hope to have a selection made shortly. Also today, we had another positive news article in the Baton Rouge newspaper, The Advocate, regarding Jetson, so this Friday I get to take a deep breath, and I hope you get to do the same.

As you can see, I've been on the move, and everywhere I go, I see OJJ staff doing a great job and working hard. As ever, my thanks to all of you in every office and facility, for all you do daily, to meet the mission. And I know, all of you know the mission!

Sincerely,

“Doc” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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